

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising managing the configuration of telecommunications operations software comprising computer code by storing configuration data in a file-based format, specifying or modifying the configuration data by selecting telecommunications products or services from a catalog, ~~and effecting one or more changes required to the computer code of the telecommunications operations software in response to newly specified or modified configuration data-~~, and publishing the changes to at least one support system so as to automatically configure a new version of the at least one support system.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the telecommunications operations software is selected from the group: provisioning software, customer support software or billing software.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the computer code is object code or source code or parameters or data.
4. (Cancelled) Apparatus comprising a computer system including one more programs operable on the system that manage the configuration of telecommunications operations software comprising computer code by storing configuration data in a file-based format, specifying or modifying the configuration data by selecting telecommunications products or services from a catalog, and effecting one or more changes required to the computer code of the telecommunications operations software in response to newly specified or modified configuration data.

5. (Cancelled) Apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the telecommunications operations software is selected from the group: provisioning software, customer support software or billing software.

6. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 4 wherein the computer code is object code or source code or parameters or data.

7. (Cancelled) An article of manufacture comprising a configuration data file stored on a machine readable medium wherein the configuration data file specifies a configuration of telecommunications operations software comprising computer code wherein the data file format is adapted to allow the configuration to be specified or modified by selecting telecommunications products or services from a catalog, and further adapted to provide the information necessary to effect one or more changes required to the computer code of the telecommunications operations software in response to newly specified or modified configuration data.

8. (Currently amended) ~~An article of manufacture~~ An apparatus comprising one or more programs carried on a machine readable medium ~~and operable on a suitable computer system~~ to manage the configuration of telecommunications operations software comprising computer code by storing configuration data in a file-based format, specifying or modifying the configuration data by selecting telecommunications products or services from a catalog, and effecting one or more changes required to the computer code of the telecommunications operations software in response to newly specified or modified configuration data, and publishing the changes to at least one support system so as to automatically configure a new version of the at least one support system.

9. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the telecommunications operations software is selected from the group: provisioning software, customer support software or billing software.
10. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ An apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the computer code is object code or source code or parameters or data.
11. (Cancelled) A method comprising managing the configuration of a telecommunications software system wherein a user selects telecommunications products or services from a catalog through a graphical user interface and the configuration of one or more programs in the software system are automatically updated to reflect the chosen products or services.
12. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 11 wherein the programs are selected from the group: provisioning software, customer support software or billing software.
13. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 11 wherein further including automatically generating new versions of one or more of the programs.
14. (Cancelled) Apparatus comprising a computer system that manages the configuration of a telecommunications software system, the computer system including software adapted to allow a user to select a telecommunications product or service from a catalog through a graphical user interface and to configure one or more programs in the software system automatically so they are updated to reflect the chosen product or service.
15. (Cancelled) Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the programs are selected from the group: provisioning software, customer support software or billing software.
16. (Original) A method comprising managing a telecommunications software system using a graphical user interface to set the configuration of one or more parts of the system at a first

level of configuration, and automatically configuring the one or more parts at a second, lower level of configuration.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16 further wherein the first level of configuration is specified at a policy level.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16 further wherein the first level of configuration is specified as a composite of lower level configuration settings.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 16 further wherein the first level of configuration is specified by selecting one or more product catalog items.

20. (Original) A system comprising:

a telecommunications software system including one or more parts;

a configuration management system including a graphical user interface adapted to set the configuration of one or more parts of the system at a first level of configuration, and further including computer software that automatically configures the one or more parts at a second, lower level of configuration.

21. (Currently amended) ~~A method according to~~ The system of claim 20 ~~further~~ wherein the first level of configuration is specified at a policy level.

22. (Currently amended) ~~A method according to~~ The system of claim 20 ~~further~~ wherein the first level of configuration is specified as a composite of lower level configuration settings.

23. (Currently amended) ~~A method according to~~ The system of claim 20 ~~further~~ wherein the first level of configuration is specified by selecting one or more product catalog items.

24. (Original) A system, comprising:

a configuration server for telecommunications software;

one or more configuration tools having a graphical user interface adapted to specify a configuration for the telecommunications software;

a version control server for telecommunications software;

one or more version control tools adapted to manage versioning of the telecommunications software; and

telecommunications software in communication with the configuration server.

25. (Original) A system, comprising:

a configuration server for telecommunications software having a first level of configuration;

one or more configuration tools having a graphical user interface adapted to specify a configuration for the telecommunications software wherein the configuration is controlled at a second level of configuration that is higher than the first level of configuration; and

telecommunications software in communication with the configuration server.